WIE
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
We Solve Problems First

Women in Engineering Program

At The Grainger College of Engineering, we thrive and excel in all we do because we all have one common goal – to shape our collective future together, regardless of where we come from. Our community directly embraces and advocates for the importance of mutual respect, empathy, diversity, equality, and inclusion to allow people with all backgrounds, perspectives and identities to flourish and thrive.

Women in Engineering (WIE) is a college-wide program dedicated to providing a welcoming and supportive environment for women students in engineering. We help you innovate, collaborate, and succeed to make a difference in people’s lives.
We Innovate

World-shaking innovation requires careful planning, purposeful execution and fearless measurement. At The Grainger College of Engineering, there’s no better place for making this possible when bright minds work across disciplines to solve problems. The resources on our campus allow for endless possibilities to create a better tomorrow for all. You’ll have the ability to participate in activities like Team Tech and Senior Design projects. These opportunities allow you to work with a particular company to utilize the knowledge you’ve gained through coursework, research, and professional experience to solve problems in innovative and collaborative ways.

We Collaborate

The culture at Grainger Engineering fosters interdisciplinary collaboration to deliver on the promise of being a force for change. We work together to solve problems, discuss ideas and find solutions. More than 2,000 research projects are happening at any given time. Collaboration on diverse teams leads to the most successful engineering solutions. Thus, our women in engineering are vital in driving us forward to shape our collective future together. From working with professors on bone tissue regeneration and 3D printing with conductive inks to building relationships with peers via activities like the water projects through Engineers Without Borders, women at Illinois are changing the world. It’s through these group-based efforts that we will have an impact on society.

We Succeed

The knowledge and experience gained at Illinois leads to further research opportunities, continued higher education and top industry job positions. On average, 95% of women in engineering are employed or continuing education after graduation with a starting salary of $81,459.

It’s the creativity, drive and boldness of our women in engineering that allows us to tackle the world’s most complex challenges, whether it’s deciphering the mysteries of the brain or developing ways to use safer energy in villages around the world. With a degree from The Grainger College of Engineering, you’ll be at the forefront of innovation and helping to make our world a better place for future generations.
We Offer Many Ways to Get Involved

One of our greatest features at Illinois is the wealth of options outside the classroom. And so many are focused on women in engineering! By participating in groups you’re passionate about, you’ll make lifelong friends, grow as a leader and build an amazing resume.

- Alpha Omega Epsilon and Phi Sigma Rho*
- Society of Women Engineers
- Society of Women in Physics
- Women in Aerospace
- Women in Computer Science
- Women in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Women in Mechanical Science & Engineering
- Women in Nuclear Engineering

*Academic and social sororities for women in engineering

GFX Scholars
Selected incoming first-year engineering students will be named GFX (Grainger First-Year Experience) Scholars, a program that allows you to form community with other engineers during your first year on campus through the exploration of specific interests. GFX has partnered with a variety of Undergraduate Programs, including WIE, to provide first-year experience courses to communities of students interested in a year-long program relating to one of their passions.

WIE Ambassadors
WIE Ambassadors are current women students who exhibit a commitment to excellence and leadership both in and outside the classroom. WIE Ambassadors support prospective students during their college visits and answer questions they might have as they explore The Grainger College of Engineering and the UIUC campus. With over 50 WIE Ambassadors each year, they make an impact on the next generation of Grainger Engineers.
As an incoming first-year, you apply directly to your major of choice. This allows you to immediately begin coursework in your major and start building your academic community. If you have a strong interest in exploring multiple engineering majors in your first year, apply to Engineering Undeclared.

Grainger Engineering Majors

- Aerospace Engineering
- Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computer Science + X
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Mechanics
- Industrial Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Neural Engineering
- Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering
- Physics
- Systems Engineering and Design

2,000+

Undergraduate women engineers in The Grainger College of Engineering
We are Successful

“WeIE Orientation gave me a head start I don’t think you’ll find anywhere else. I met so many of my best friends there. It was inspiring to meet like-minded women striving for success before classes began.”
— Lara Flasch, Industrial Engineering

“WeIE not only helped me build my community, it enabled my involvement as a mentor and advocate for K-12 students. I’m excited to help increase the number of women in STEM in this way.”
— Corly Leung, Computer Science

“The support network at Illinois is outstanding. Resources in the WIE office, advising from deans and departments, my peers—there is always someone to help!”
— Elizabeth Sanders, Chemical Engineering

“WeIE is dedicated to my success after I leave Illinois. By hosting workshops on leadership skills like negotiation, collaboration, and resilience, WIE helped me land my dream job.”
— Alexis Eickelschulte, Systems Engineering and Design

“Being a Woman in Engineering at Illinois sets you up for success. From the community you build, to the resources available to you, the possibilities are endless!”
— Rebecca Ficht, Bioengineering

“Every day I am inspired by the hard work, creativity, and love that my classmates put into their experience here. I’ve met people from all over the world that have not only inspired me to be the best person I can be, but have also inspired me to make the world the best place it can be.”
— Rebecca Ventura, Civil Engineering
We Have the Numbers

Your hard work will make you successful in The Grainger College of Engineering. But we like to think our size and resources for an elite, well-rounded education play a part as well. Our excellence is as broad as it is deep. You will be among ambitious yet helpful peers, esteemed faculty and knowledgeable advisors. And you’ll be rewarded for your studies upon graduation.

#7 Overall ranking among undergraduate programs in the U.S.

#10 Overall ranking among graduate programs in the U.S.

15 Top-ranked undergraduate degree programs

400+ World-class faculty

100+ Engineering-based student organizations

48% Undergraduates participate in research

12 Engineering Departments

45 Multidisciplinary research centers, institutes and laboratories

2,000+ Research projects each semester

95% Women employed or continuing education upon graduation

$81,459 Average BS starting salary for women

$10,783 Average signing bonus for women

97,000+ Alumni worldwide
Which Major is Right for You?

Your path to Grainger Engineering starts with connecting your passion and interests with the opportunities available in one of our 15 top-ranked major programs. Take our majors quiz to discover which programs are a good fit for you, gather the information you need to take the next step and apply.

Take Our Majors Quiz
goa.grainger.illinois.edu/majors-quiz-wie